



Atlanta Regional Commission
regional impact + local relevance

ARC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT – **FULTON COUNTY**

atlantaregional.org

September 2021



ARC works closely with local governments and community partners in Fulton County to improve quality of life and secure future success. This report measures progress in Fulton in the three long-range goals of the Atlanta Region's Plan: providing **World-Class Infrastructure**, fostering **Healthy, Livable Communities**, and developing a **Competitive Economy**.



WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC works with its regional partners to develop and maintain world-class infrastructure, including a transportation network that improves mobility, and a sustainable supply of clean water.



Improving mobility in Fulton

\$449.5 million in federal and state transportation funds allocated by ARC to the county.

A

Projects include **interchange reconstruction at I-285 and SR 400**; construction of the Global Gateway Connector, a bike-ped trail between College Park MARTA station and the Skytrain Station; widening and reconstruction of SR 9 (North Main Street) in Alpharetta.

3.5 million fewer miles traveled by the **2,074 Fulton residents** who participated in the **Georgia Commute Options** program, saving them **\$2 million** in fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

Securing a sustainable future

Cities of East Point and South Fulton are onboarding as a **New Leaf Green Community** and the cities of Milton and Roswell are recertifying as a **Green Community**.

City of South Fulton participated in the **2020-2021 Sustainable Connections Internship Program**, allowing the city to inventory its existing sustainability initiatives and develop a plan for achieving Green Communities certification.

The Serenbe Institute for Arts, Culture, and the Environment participated in the 2020-2021 Sustainable Connections Internship Program, allowing the nonprofit to better serve residents of the City of Chattahoochee Hills and the greater South Fulton area by tracking conservation easements and developing educational programs.



551 toilet rebates were received by Fulton residents, facilitating the replacement of older, inefficient toilets.

ARC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

Helping organizations transition to hybrid work environments

Georgia Commute Options (GCO), a program managed by ARC, served a vital role in helping organizations move to telework environments during peak pandemic times. As shelter-in-place orders began to lift in Georgia, GCO began helping companies establish hybrid work environments (continued telework, flexible schedules, and shared spaces), recognizing the strong desire of most employees surveyed to continue teleworking at a higher level than pre-pandemic.



HEALTHY, LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

ARC works to foster vibrant, pedestrian-friendly communities and supports healthy living and aging by offering a range of services for older people and individuals with disabilities.

Improving quality of life for Fulton residents of all ages and abilities

\$5.4 million in state and federal funds allocated by ARC to **Fulton Senior Services** for direct services provided to Fulton residents, including **congregate and home-delivered meals, in-home support services, transportation, case management, and COVID relief funds.**

Making Fulton an even better place to live, work, and play

\$160,000 **Community Development Assistance Program** to the **city of Alpharetta** to assist with the **Alpharetta-South Main Street Creative Placemaking and Economic Strategy** to develop opportunities for safe walking and biking while promoting transit ridership and examine opportunities for redevelopment that promote creative placemaking and the continued success of the Downtown Alpharetta LCI.

\$120,000 **Livable Centers Initiative grant** to the **City of South Fulton** to explore new transportation options and develop an economic development strategy that includes creative placemaking.

The **City of Fairburn** will receive critical planning and technical assistance through the **Community Development Assistance Program** to identify sites for future community gardens, implementation strategies and potential funding sources.

The **City of Sandy Springs** will receive critical planning and technical assistance through the **Community Development Assistance Program** to establish a comprehensive climate resilience plan including a flood mitigation and resilience component to unify current existing work on the city's flood issues.

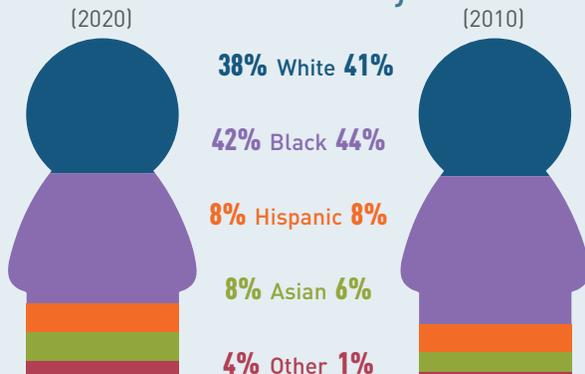


BY THE NUMBERS: FULTON POPULATION

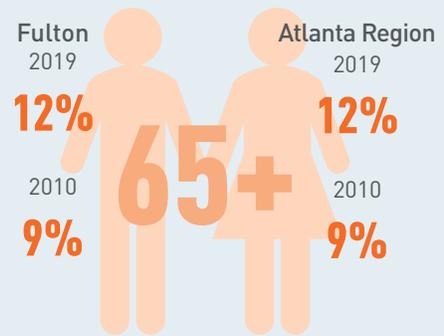
U.S. Census Counts



Race & Ethnicity



Percent of Population 65+



Source: ARC analysis of data from U.S. Census and 2019 ACS 1-year.

COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

ARC works with its regional partners to ensure our economy thrives and remains competitive.

Planning for a stronger, more competitive economy

ARC's CATLYST program is a 5-year effort designed to improve regional competitiveness and collaboration throughout the 10-county region. Through the hard work of volunteer project teams and ARC staff, CATLYST continues to support our region's efforts to ensure the creation of a region that works for everyone. A few highlights of the regional economic development strategy include:

- **CARES Act funding** – To support the implementation of the Competitive Economic Development Strategy specifically to assist communities and sectors impacted by COVID-19, ARC provided a grant to the Airport area communities known as Aerotropolis to develop a Pandemic Response Economic Strategy. Additionally, ARC is also providing technical assistance to local governments to respond to COVID impacts through data analysis, informational forums, and technical studies.
- **Continued Collaborative Marketing** – The Atlanta Regional Marketing Alliance continues to support the efforts of local economic development agencies through combined marketing to site location consultants and real estate brokers as well as sharing best practices to support each county and economic development organization in the Atlanta Region.
- **Identifying Effective Affordable Housing Strategies** – CATLYST continues to support a multi-disciplinary team in creating a regional strategy designed to increase the availability of quality, affordable housing. For more information and the latest updates on the strategy, visit AtlantaRegionalHousing.org.

Cultivating leaders to meet the region's challenges

344 Metro Atlanta residents took part in ARC leadership programs, including: Regional Leadership Institute (RLI), Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge (LINK), Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA), Community Planning Academy (CPA), and Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC).



BY THE NUMBERS: FULTON ECONOMY

Median Household Income (2019)

\$80,013

Fulton

\$71,742

Atlanta region



Fulton Jobs

(2020)

874,374

(2010)

737,692

Poverty Rate (2019)

▼ **13.5%** in Fulton live below poverty level

▼ **10%** in Atlanta region live below poverty level

Source: ARC analysis of data from 2019 ACS 1-year and JobsEQ, 2021Q1

All data unless specified otherwise is through June 30, 2021.



Atlanta Regional Commission

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